

**PROPOSAL FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DOCUMENTATION OF THE  
GUTHERIE-GIACOMELLI HOUSE OR "TWEED'S  
TAVERN (CRS #N-1101) AND THE ASSOCIATED  
TWEED'S TAVERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE  
(7NC-A-18)  
VALLEY ROAD, MILL CREEK HUNDRED, NEW CASTLE  
COUNTY, DELAWARE**

Submitted to:

**Delaware Department of Transportation**

May 26, 1999

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## **A. Purpose of this Document**

This plan is intended to satisfy the requirements of 36 CFR Part 800 by providing a program of architectural and archaeological recordation for the National Register Eligible historic property known as the Guthrie-Giacomelli House or "Tweed's Tavern" (CRS #N-1101) and the associated Tweed's Tavern Archaeological Site (7NC-A-18). These resources were identified as significant during implementation of intersection improvement and stormwater management undertakings at S.R 7 and Valley Road, New Castle County, Delaware. Procedures set out in 36 CFR Part 800.11 are therefore being followed, and the proposed documentation will enable a Determination of No Adverse Effect to be made under 36 CFR 800.9(c)(1). The recordation and associated investigations and analysis will be undertaken within the framework of research objectives related to the statewide historic contexts structure for Delaware. These objectives are set out in the summary documentation and effects assessment which accompanies this plan.

The plan is made up of the following components:

- Additional exposure of portions of the log structure to identify structural components
- Photographic and graphic documentation of the structure in line with HABS/HAER and Delaware State Historic Preservation Office Requirements
- A review process to determine the need for and scope of additional recording
- Archaeological data recovery of contributing archaeological resources adjacent to the house
- A public outreach program integral with the documentation process
- Monitoring during removal of the structure (if required)
- Reporting in the form of an integrated historic structures report and archaeological analysis

## **B. Summary of the Resources**

Details of the two affected resources are provided in the Summary Documentation which accompanies this plan. The core of the present house is a full two story log building (interpreted as the tavern), about 25 by 20 feet in plan, and probably of late 18<sup>th</sup> century date. The hewn logs are v-notched at the corners. Archaeological resources relating to the outbuildings and activity areas associated with the tavern are not considered to meet National Register Eligibility criteria with the exception of an area immediately west of the house where structural remains and a dense artifact scatter are present.

## **C. Proposed Project Actions**

### **1. Additional Exposure of Portions of the Log Structure to Identify Structural Components**

Using scaffolding to gain access to the second storey exterior level, the investigation team will

selectively remove stucco from the exterior wall faces at locations where key structural information can be obtained. Of particular significance will be the junction of the first and second floors, where it should be possible to resolve outstanding question of whether the building started as a single storey structure which was later raised. The early fenestration and exterior surface treatment will also be established through this investigation.

## **2. Photographic and Graphic Documentation of the Structure**

In association with task 1, the ground plans of all floors will be re-surveyed to HABS standards, and the first floor interior elevations will be drawn. A single measured cross-section will also be drawn. Remaining elevations and exposed features will be photographed broadly in line with HABS/HAER Level II and Delaware State Historic Preservation Office requirements. A combination of 35mm photography (using a rectilinear lens) and large format photography will be employed.

## **3. Review to Determine Additional Recording Requirements**

At an appropriate time during tasks 1 and 2 a site review meeting will be held with the client to determine whether recording in addition to that proposed above will be necessary in the light of newly-exposed information. This work, if agreed, would be considered a change in the work scope and would be an additional cost.

## **4. Archaeological Data Recovery of Contributing Archaeological Resources Adjacent to the House**

At the same time as the documentation of the building, data recovery excavations will be undertaken in the area of the significant contributing archaeological deposits located in Trench 18 west of the house. A total exposure of 250 square feet (76 sq. m.) of deposits around Excavation Unit 11 is proposed. The main objectives of these investigations are to recover a sample of the material culture associated with the tavern occupation, and to characterize and document the structure identified in EU 11. The cultural assemblage will be used for comparison with other tavern assemblages recovered from nearby sites. These will include the John Ruth Inn, Mermaid and Blue Ball Taverns in northern Delaware.

## **5. Public Outreach Program Integral with the Documentation Process**

The exposure and documentation of this interesting log structure provides an opportunity to explain its significance, to demonstrate recording techniques, and to emphasize the connection between below-ground archaeology and standing buildings, a connection in which Hunter Research has a particular expertise. The public outreach program will be made up of the following components:

i) An "open door" visitor policy Mondays through Fridays. The public will have supervised access to the site during the work day. A member of the investigation team will be responsible at all times for meeting visitors and showing them around the site, with a second member as a backup.



ii) One, more formal, open day (a Saturday), in which artifacts and records will be displayed, and information about log buildings will be available. We propose to make a small, lightweight log-cabin which can be dismantled and rebuilt by older children under adult supervision. This would be at a scale of about two inches to one foot, so that the cabin would be about five by four feet in plan: big enough to show details of doors and windows and the notching technique. For smaller children we will have Lincoln Logs available.

iii) Safety will be a major concern: only specified areas inside the house will be available to visitors, and limits will be set on the number of people who will be permitted in the building at any one time. The movement of visitors through the site will be carefully planned, and parking areas and access routes will be defined. A specific Site Safety and Health Plan will be developed to address both site operations and the public outreach program

iv) Publicity will be overseen and directed by the Delaware Department of Transportation. Hunter Research will provide the Department with information for distribution to local media.

#### **6. Monitoring During Removal of the Structure (option)**

It is understood that a final determination has not been made on the treatment of the house. Should it be decided that the structure is to be demolished, it is suggested that a program of monitoring be implemented during the demolition to selectively record particular features and parts of the building not previously accessible. Consideration should be given to salvage of portions of the building: perhaps a well preserved section of one of the corners. These could be deposited with the Delaware Agriculture Museum, Winterthur, or another appropriate institution.

#### **7. Reporting: Integrated Historic Structures Report and Archaeological Analysis**

It is proposed to present the report on this project in a historic structures report format which will focus on the structural components, development and significance of the house itself. The archaeological investigations will also be included within this report as separate chapters, with the two groups of data closely integrated and discussed together in the synthesis sections. In view of the considerable regional interest of this building, it is suggested that this report may be produced as one of the DelDOT archaeology series.